

EQUAL RIGHTS

"EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED
BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX."

Christmas ★ 1952

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We are now well on our way into the second half of the Twentieth Century. Forty years ago, when the National Woman's Party was founded, we would do well to remember the position of women, not only in the United States, but elsewhere in the world.

Women were not admitted to the professions, such as law and medicine, they knew nothing of science or engineering, their opportunities for gainful employment were so limited—to the teaching profession and secretarial odd jobs—that thousands of them lived their lives in little more than bondage, dependent upon the crumbs from their fathers', husbands' and brothers' tables.

Elsewhere in the world the veil of the purdah smothered the energies and spirits of the women of the Far Eastern countries, and in Europe, they lived their lives somewhere between the genteel imprisonment of Anglo-Saxon tradition, and the outright chattel status of Oriental custom.

I remember a song sung by Russian peasant women, discovered in his travels by a learned professor of ethnology, and duly reported:

"The lot of woman is hard,

There are so many of us, and we work from the dawn to the dusk—

We are like the fish in the sea—

Where they swim, even God has forgotten!"

Today, only forty years after the founding of our Party in the United States, we view a world scene totally different from that of 1913. In the United States, women hold the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense, delegate to the United Nations on economic and social questions, member of the United States Senate, and of Congress—and there are federations of women lawyers, physicians, engineers, scientists, business women, and thousands of women's clubs dealing with every subject under the sun where women's interests are concerned.

In India, a woman is a Foreign Minister, and there are delegates to the United Nations from India, Iraq, the United Kingdom, Australia, Chile, the Latin American countries, etc. Japan and India include equality of the sexes in their constitutions.

American women furnished the leadership in founding the National Woman's Party, and in winning suffrage for American women. We were the vanguard in the world movement for the emancipation of women, a phenomenon, when seen in retrospect, which will surpass the scientific achievements of the Twentieth Century, because it has released the energies and spiritual strengths of over one-half of the human race.

It is a matter of record that in those nations where women have achieved the most advanced status in civil and political equality, there has the strongest stand been taken against the new type of barbarism threatening the stability and peace of the world.

In these last months of 1952, the women of America should ask themselves what more they can do in 1953 to ensure the passage by the new Congress of the Equal Rights Amendment. They have shown a tremendous awakening in their participation in the recent election. How appropriate it would be if we can succeed in passing the Amendment next year, on our fortieth anniversary!

And with this thought for the New Year, the National Woman's Party and Equal Rights wishes one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

National Woman's Party is primarily an educational and informational organization. Founded "to raise the status of women," we are interested in assisting women to obtain top places in government, business, and as partners in the home. We have a legislative committee, which deals with law. We have nine other major committees covering the educational field.

Ethel Ernest Murrell, National Chairman—National Woman's Party.

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

Published at 144 Constitution Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C. Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. 38, No. 6

Washington 2, D. C.

Nov. - Dec., 1952



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Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
Capitol Hill Washington 2, D. C.

Published at
144 Constitution Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D. C.
Entered as second class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription, \$1.50 a Year
Foreign Subscription, \$2.00

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TEXT OF EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
"Congress and the several States shall have power, within their respective jurisdictions, to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
"This amendment shall take effect one year after the date of ratification."

STATUS OF AMENDMENT

Introduced:

In Senate, Jan. 8, 1951, by Senator Herbert R. O'Connor (D), Md., with 27 co-sponsors (S.J.R. 3).
In House Feb. 2, 1951, by Rep. Katharine St. George (R), N. Y., with 104 co-sponsors (H.J.R. 52).

Reported:

Favorably by Senate Judiciary Committee, May 21, 1951.

Referred:

To Judiciary Committee of both Houses at time of introduction.
To House Sub-Judiciary Committee No. 3, May 10, 1951.

Xmas Message from the Chairman

Jesus speaking to Martha of her studious sister said;
"Let her be, she has chosen the better part."

This, I like to think, was the first feminist lecture. That woman might serve with the mind as well as the hand, that she could be a disciple as well as a drudge, was a new and shining precept.

Today woman has entered her role as a partner in all phases of life and endeavor, with high heart and higher aspirations. It remains only to guarantee her the legal rights she has already won, and help her to surmount the few remaining handicaps. This Congress should, and I believe will, do just that.

Once she is crowned with accomplishment, mantled in the protection of the U.S. Constitution, we can leave the rest to Woman. She is eternal youth, continued courage, she is humanity.

So at this season of rejoicing, I invite you to join me:

In gratitude for the great things that have been done,
In pleasure in the work that we are doing,
In union and loyalty for the struggle approaching,
In sweet savoring of the success we certainly will shortly win,
In assuring National Woman's Party a future through which it, and we, may continue to serve Woman.

May God bless us, and our work and in this New Year show us the way to better serve, whether as Marthas or as Marys.

Sincere good wishes, and the Seasons greetings,

Ethel Ernest Murrell
National Chairman

THE NATIONAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4

THE NATIONAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4 changes the chairmanships of the Committees of Congress. These will now be organized by the Republican Party with a Republican President for the first time in 20 years.

Mr. Chauncey W. Reed, a good friend of the principles we advocate, becomes chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

We are hopeful that the Amendment will receive early consideration and come before Congress for an early vote in 1953. Commentators are unanimous in saying women played a tremendous part in the election. A national figure even deplored the fact that women had been enfranchised. Now having pledged itself to support the Amendment, as well as equal pay for equal work, the Republican Party has a tremendous opportunity to express its appreciation to women and at the same time go down in history by bringing to the United States full citizenship for women.

NEW JERSEY

Mary G. Roebling, Chairman of the Trenton Trust Co., is firm in her belief that women are the equal of men in most endeavors. She is a director or a trustee of a dozen companies and associations and is president of a holding company.

"I believe women have proven themselves to be equally capable with men and have shouldered their responsibilities in all phases of local, state, and national affairs as well as the most important fundamental basic principle of our lives—that of being a mother." United States Steel selected Trenton Trust to handle its local finances, and in United States Steel, Mrs. Roebling sees a new industrial era for Trenton.

SWITZERLAND

A Swiss women's organization has decided it is about time the oldest and most highly developed democracy in Europe gave women a say in the running of the country.

A band of determined wives and mothers are mustering their forces behind the Swiss Association for Feminine Suffrage to wage a household campaign in the federal capital here and in the Canton (state) of Bern.

Their appeal is addressed not to women but to men because only men can sign an "initiative of the people"—a special petition to the Federal Council, which is one

(Continued on page 3)

**IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
PAID UP TO DATE?**

Switzerland *(Continued from page 2)*

of the first and most essential steps in the making of a new law in Switzerland.

Twelve thousand male signatures must be collected before the "initiative" will be accepted by the Government for consideration. The leaders of the "votes for Women" movement are confident they can get 50,000 signatures.

In Switzerland a direct vote by the people—in other words, the men—is taken on almost everything. Women play no part except to influence their menfolk.

This system goes back hundreds of years to the mediæval Landsgegemeinde, where only men who carried arms for their collective security had the right to vote.

These rural parliaments, where voting was directly by a show of hands, were the first form of democracy in Switzerland.

The evolution of modern ideas has not obliterated the old tradition in the minds of the majority of the Swiss.

But the women of the Vaud and Valais, Zurich, Lucern and all of her cantons have a feeling that they are now out of step with women elsewhere in the world.

They question the truth of Article 4 in the constitution of 1848: "All Swiss are equal before the law." They also point out that nothing in the constitution precludes them from having the vote—nothing except custom, an antiquated custom they add.

There are about 1,300,000 enrolled male voters in Switzerland and the potential women voters are estimated to number more than 150,000.

The leader of the organization is a young-looking grandmother, Mrs. Andrjenne Gonzenbach, and she is a woman with a resolute expression.

ENGLAND

The principle that women should be paid at the same rates as men for comparable work was endorsed by the House of Commons in England. Mr. Pannell asked the House to reaffirm its belief in the principle. His motion called on the Government to announce an early date by which the application of equal pay for equal work for women in the Civil Service, the teaching profession, local government and other public service would begin. "Nothing less than an intimation of the date by the Government will satisfy us." He asked, "Are women to be placated by a plethora of platitudes over the last thirty years? Exploitation of female labor is as old as the factory system itself."

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, Financial Secretary of the Treasury, said the Government wished to start the implementation of equal pay in the public service as soon as it could do so "without serious prejudice to our National economic recovery. During the six years the Socialist Government was responsible for affairs it did not take these steps. They said they did not feel the economic position justified the step. Yet the economic position was not conspicuously better today." Turning to the question of application of equal pay by gradual stages, he said: "The main trouble was while this would appear to add comparatively little to immediate national expenditures repercussions outside were hard to limit. Nevertheless the Government is now ex-

amining all these possibilities to see whether there is any step forward they can take consistent with their responsibilities for the nation's economic health."

TURKEY

The International Federation of Women Lawyers met in Istanbul July 5 through July 15. At its closing session the Conference elected Miss Sureyva Agaoglu, Turkish corporation lawyer, to be president of the international organization. Dr. Rosalind Bates, president of the organization, was elected honorary president for life. Miss Florence Allen, judge of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, was elected honorary member, also for life. The 65 women delegates from 28 countries who attended the Conference were received by President Celal Bayar, who smilingly apologized for the fact that (because its women are among the most emancipated in the world) Turkey was not fertile ground on which to agitate for women's rights.

The women jurists also met the Turkish Minister of Justice, the President, Bar Association, and numerous Turkish women lawyers and judges.

The Promulgation of Universal Peace

Until womankind reaches the same degree as man, until she enjoys the same area of activity, extraordinary attainment for humanity will not be realized; humanity cannot wing its way to the heights of real attainment . . . Therefore woman must receive the same education as man and all inequality be adjusted. Thus, imbued with the same virtues as man, rising through all the degrees of human attainment, women will become the peers of men; and until this equality is established, true progress for the human race will not be facilitated.

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ALL THREE ARE SYNONYMOUS

Judge Helen Elizabeth Brown, of the Baltimore Housing Court said, in her talk before the American Society of Women Accountants on
 "Women and the American Constitution":

"Unless women awaken, they will be their country's own worst enemy. If any sense, reason or order is to be brought out of this chaotic world, it is by the labor of women that they will be brought forth. But before the world can be helped, women must free themselves not only legally but from the self-imposed handicaps of indifference and absorption in immediate trivialities in order to perform the important task before them."

She expressed the belief that one of the most powerful setbacks to communism would be the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

She said the Communists have been effectively pointing out to women of Southern Europe and the Far East who have suffered so cruelly from sex discrimination that not a single capitalist state, even the most democratic, makes women equal with men in respect to their rights and that in these countries civil rights are the privileges of men alone. "And they have quoted American laws and court decisions and complaints of American women themselves to Congress to prove it. They have listed more than 1,000 legal discriminations against American women and have pointed out that although the American Constitution guarantees all persons equal protection of the laws, it does not mean women."

"Two aims indispensable to the welfare of this country and to the peace of the world can be accomplished by the immediate adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, namely, justice for American women and a staggering blow to communism."



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